Isoquinoline-Catalyzed Reaction between 4-Hydroxycoumarin or 4-Hydroxy-6-methylpyran-1-one and Dialkyl Acetylene Dicarboxylates: Synthesis of Coumarin and Pyranopyrane Derivatives

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In this work we report the reaction between dialkyl acetylenedicarboxylates and enolic systems such as 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 1,3-cyclohexanedione, 4-hydroxycoumarin or 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-1-one in the presence of isoquinoline, which leads to new coumarin and pyranopyran derivatives.

Keywords: acetylenedicarboxylic esters, isoquinoline, pyranopyran derivatives, coumarin derivatives

Introduction

Coumarin is the structural motif of many natural and synthetic compounds that endows them with a wide range of biological activities. Given the development of coumarins as photosensitizers,1 anti-HIV agents,2 antibiotics,3 rodenticides, and oral anticoagulants,4 there is continuing interest in the synthesis of these materials.

The rich and fascinating chemistry stems from the addition of nucleophiles to activated acetylene compounds has evoked considerable interest. N-Heterocycles are known to form zwitterions with activated acetylene compounds such as dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate.5-11 These zwitterions intermediate can be trapped with a variety of electrophiles and proton donors, which is a novel protocol for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds.5-13 Trapping of the zwitterion formed by the addition of isoquinoline to dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) with electrophiles such as isocyanates,14 N-tosylamines,15 quinines16 and electrophilic styrenes,17 has been recently used for the synthesis of different isoquinoline-fuzed heterocyclic systems. Reaction of electron-deficient acetylene esters with isoquinoline or quinoline has been also studied in the presence of organic acidic compounds. Reaction of quinoline-DMAD zwitterion with C-H acidic compound indan-1, 3-dione was reported to afford pyrroloquinoline derivatives.18 Isoquinoline-DMAD zwitterion was also reported to react with N-H acidic compounds such as pyrrole, indole19 and amides20 to afford substituted dihydroisoquinoline derivatives. In view of our interest in multicomponent reactions of nucleophiles with activated acetylenes and organic acidic compounds,21-23 we wish to report herein the results of our studies on the reaction of isoquinoline with acetylenedicarboxylic esters in the presence of O-H acidic compounds such as 5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (Dimedone), 1,3-cyclohexanedione, 4-hydroxycoumarin or 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-1-one.

Results and Discussion

In an initial experiment, the reaction of diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DEAD, 1) with dimedone (2) in the presence of isoquinoline (3) in dichloromethane afforded ethyl 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-7,7-dimethyl-2,5-dioxo-2H-chromene-4-carboxylate (4a) in 95% yield (Scheme 1).
The product was characterized on the basis of spectroscopic data. In the $^1$H NMR spectrum the two methylene groups was observed at $\delta$ 2.41 and 2.72 ppm as two single signals. The resonance signals due to the two ethoxycarbonyl groups appeared as a triplet at $\delta$ 1.34 ($J$ 7.2 Hz) and a quartet at $\delta$ 4.38 ($J$ 7.2 Hz), supporting the IR absorption at 1726 cm$^{-1}$. A singlet was observed at $\delta$ 1.33 for the two methyl groups. The olefinic proton appeared at $\delta$ 6.14 ppm as a singlet. In the $^{13}$C NMR spectrum twelve distinct signals were observed, which is consistent with the proposed structure. The structure and regiochemistry of compound 4a was unambiguously established by single crystal X-ray analysis (Figure 1). The distinction between $\gamma$- and $\delta$-lactonization products 3 and 4 was based on the X-ray crystallographic data. As shown in Scheme 1, the reaction was found to be applicable to DMAD. The spectral data for compound 4b were very similar to compound 4a, with exceptions of the signals due to the alkoxycarbonyl groups.

A reasonable mechanism for the formation of compound 4a is illustrated in Scheme 2. The zwitterion, formed from isoquinoline and DEAD (2) was protonated with dimedone to afford the cation 6 and the enolate ion 7. The anion 7 then underwent Michael addition to cation 6 to furnish the zwitterion 8, which was transformed into another zwitterion by an intramolecular proton transfer. Zwitterion intermediate 9 underwent lactonization to produce cation 10 and ethoxide anion. Finally, ethoxide anion absorbed a proton from the cation 10 and promoted the elimination of isoquinoline to furnish the product 4a.

Under similar conditions, the reaction of isoquinoline with DMAD and 4-hydroxycoumarin (11) led to methyl 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyrano[3,2-c]chromene-4-carboxylate 12a in 90% yield (Scheme 3). In the $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 12a methoxy group was observed at $\delta$ 4.02 ppm as a single signal. A singlet was observed at $\delta$ 6.41 for the olefinic proton. The aromatic protons appeared at $\delta$ 6.27-8.12 ppm. In the $^{13}$C NMR spectrum fourteen distinct signals were observed, which is consistent with the proposed structure.

As shown in Scheme 3, similar product 12b was obtained when DEAD was used as the activated acetylene. However, treatment of diteriobutyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DTAD, 2c) with isoquinoline and 4-hydroxycoumarin (11), and separation of the reaction mixture by column chromatography afforded di-tert-butyl 2-(4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)fumarate 13 in 95% yield (Scheme 4).

Scheme 1. Reaction between acetylenedicarboxylates and dimedone or 1,3-cyclohexandione in the presence of isoquinoline.

Scheme 2. Suggested mechanism for formation of compound 4a.
The $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 13 exhibited two sharp single signals at $\delta$ 1.43 and 1.52 ppm for two $t$-butyl groups. The olefinic proton appeared at $\delta$ 6.91 ppm as a singlet. A broad singlet was observed for O-H proton (removed by addition of D$_2$O) at $\delta$ 10.35 ppm. Aromatic protons were observed at $\delta$ 7.28-8.00 ppm. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum showed sixteen resonances in agreement with the proposed structure.

The reaction of isoquinoline-DMAD zwitterion was also carried out towards 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-1-one (14) and methyl 2, 5-dihydro-7-methyl-2, 5-dioxopyran-[4, 3-b] pyran-4-carboxylate (15) was obtained in 90% yield (Scheme 5). The $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 15 exhibited four sharp single signals at $\delta$ 2.38 (3 H), 3.97 (3 H), 6.24 (1 H) and 6.33 (1 H) for two methyl and two methine protons. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum showed ten distinct resonances in agreement with the proposed structure.

**Conclusions**

From the above results, we conclude that treatment of enolic systems such as didecene, 4-hydroxycoumarin or 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-1-one with acetylenedicarboxylates and isoquinoline can lead to the formation of some fused heterocycles. The whole reaction can be considered as an addition reaction between acetylene derivative and enolic system, followed by a $\delta$-lactonization one, catalyzed by isoquinoline. The presented method has the advantage of being performed under neutral conditions and requires no activation or modification of the reagents.

**Experimental**

Melting points were determined with an electrothermal 9100 apparatus. Elemental analyses were performed using a Heraeus CHN-O-Rapid analyzer. Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan- MAT (San Jose, CA, USA) 8430 mass spectrometer operating at 70 eV. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu (Tokyo, Japan) IR-470 spectrometer. $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR spectra were recorded on BRUKER DRX-300 AVANCE spectrometer at 300.1 and 75.46 MHz, respectively. $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR spectra were obtained on solution in CDCl$_3$ using TMS as internal standard. The chemicals used in this work were purchased from Fluka (Buchs, Switzerland) and were used without further purification.

**General procedure**

To a magnetically stirred solution of the enolizable compound (1 mmol) and isoquinoline (1 mmol) in 10 mL acetone was added dropwise a mixture of acetylenedicarboxylates (1 mmol) in 5 mL acetone at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 24 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-ethyl acetate as eluent to afford the pure title compounds.

Ethyl 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-7,7-dimethyl-2,5-dioxo-2H-chromene-4-carboxylate (4a)

Colorless crystals; yield 0.25 g (95%), mp 96-98 °C; IR(KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}$/cm$^{-1}$: 1760, 1733 (C=O). MS (m/z, %): 264 (M$^+$, 8). $^1$H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 1.13 (6 H, s, 2 CH$_3$), 1.34 (3 H, t, $^3$J$_{HH}$ 7.2 Hz OCH$_2$CH$_3$), 2.41, 2.72 (4H, 2s, 2CH$_2$), 4.38 (2H, q, $^3$J$_{HH}$ 7.2 Hz OCH$_2$CH$_3$), 6.14 (1H, s, CH) ppm. $^{13}$C NMR (75.46 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 14.29 (OCH$_2$CH$_3$), 28.65 (2Me), 32.95 (C (Me)$_2$), 42.54, 51.09, 62.99 (OCH$_2$CH$_3$), 111.86 (CH), 112.19 (O-C=O), 146.47 (C-CO$_2$Et), 159.56 (O=O-C=O), 165.77, 174.38, 192.74 (3C=O) ppm. Anal. Calc. for C$_{14}$H$_{16}$O$_5$: C, 63.63; H, 6.10%. Found: C, 63.81; H, 5.9%.

**Crystal data for 4a**

Formula (C$_{14}$H$_{16}$O$_5$): Fw = 264.27, trigonal, space group R-3, crystal dimensions $0.50 \times 0.49 \times 0.45$ mm,
Methyl 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-7,7-dimethyl-2,5-dioxo-2H-chromene-4-carboxylate (4b)

Colorless crystals; yield 0.25 g (95%), mp 96–98 °C; IR(KBr) ν max/cm−1: 1741, 1679(C=O), MS (m/z, %): 250 (M+, 10). 1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl3): δ 1.19 (6 H, s, CH2), 2.46, 2.86 (4H, 2s, 2CH2), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH3), 6.25 (1H, s, CH), 7.42–8.12 (4H, m, arom). 13C NMR (75.46 MHz, CDCl3): δ 28.07 (2Me), 32.40 (C(Me)), 41.87, 50.39, (2CH2), 53.05 (OCH3), 111.24 (CH), 111.67 (O–C=O), 145.56 (C–CO2Me), 158.99 (O–C=O), 165.41, 175.46, 192.43 (3C=O) ppm. Anal. Calc. for C19H19O3: C, 62.53; H, 6.4%. Found: C, 62.42; H, 6.73%.

Diterbutyl 2-(4-hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl)fumarate (13)

Colorless crystals; yield 0.36 g (95%), mp 72–73 °C; IR(KBr) ν max/cm−1: 1712, 1660(C=O). MS (m/z, %): 388 (M+, 7). 1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl3): δ 1.43, 1.52 (18H, 2s, 2t-Bu), 6.91(1H, s, CH), 7.28–8.00 (4H, m, arom), 10.35 (1H, broad singlet,OH) ppm. 13C NMR (75.46 MHz, CDCl3): δ 29.72 (2C (CH3)), 83.61, 84.33 (2C (CH3)), 101.96, 116.40, 116.43, 124.08, 124.48, 132.08, 132.77, 136.37, 152.93, 182.05 (aromatic and olefinic carbons), 162.15, 166.37, 167.41 (3C=O) ppm. Anal. Calc. for C31H24O6: C, 64.94; H, 6.25%. Found: C, 65.09; H, 6.17%.

Methyl 2,5-dihydro-2,5-dioxopyran [4, 3-b]pyran-4-carboxylate (15)

Colorless crystals; yield 0.21 g (90%), mp 96–98 °C; IR(KBr) ν max/cm−1: 1756, 1721(C=O). MS (m/z, %): 236
(M+, 7). 1H NMR (300.1 MHz, CDCl3): δ 2.38 (3H, s, CH3), 3.97(3H, s, OCH3), 6.24, 6.33 (2H, 2s, 2CH) ppm. 13C NMR (75.46 MHz, CDCl3): δ 19.88(CH3), 52.87(OCH3), 99.48, 111.56, 146.64, 157.92, 157.99 (olefinic carbons) 164.94, 167.83, 167.88 (3C=O) ppm. Anal. Calc. for C11H8O6: C, 55.94; H, 3.41%. Found: C, 55.81; H, 3.53%.

Supplementary Information

Supplementary data is available free of charge at http://jbcs.sbq.org.br, as PDF file.

References


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Figure S1. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 4a.

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Figure S2. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 4a.

Figure S3. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 4b.
**Figure S4.** $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 4b.

**Figure S5.** $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 12a.
Figure S6. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 12a.

Figure S7. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 12b.
Figure S8. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 12b.

Figure S9. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 13.
Figure S10. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 13.

Figure S11. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 15.
Figure S12. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 15.